



June 1, 2009

The Honorable Jean Cunningham, Chair  
State Board of Elections  
Washington Building, First Floor  
1100 Bank Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

ANDREW L. STERN  
International President

**Re: Voter Residency Task Force**

ANNA BURGER  
International Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham:

MARY KAY HENRY  
Executive Vice President

GERRY HUDSON  
Executive Vice President

ELISEO MEDINA  
Executive Vice President

DAVE REGAN  
Executive Vice President

TOM WOODRUFF  
Executive Vice President

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) writes in support of the request of the Fair Elections Legal Network (FELN) to serve as a member of the Voter Residency Task Force recently created by the Board of Elections. SEIU is a labor organization that has more than 2 million members throughout the United States, including the state of Virginia. The SEIU represents workers in a variety of occupations and industries including property services, health care, and in the public sector. Many of our members are individuals who work in low wage occupations such as janitors, security guards, home care aids, and nursing home workers. Many of our members and their family members have attended or will in future attend community colleges or universities in the state of Virginia. Our work as the leading advocates for improving the lives of our members has entailed encouraging student and worker involvement in public life through voting and engaging in the political process.

SEIU maintains an interest in this task force to ensure that every eligible citizen of the Commonwealth can freely exercise their right to vote.

We understand that there are three open seats on the Board, which is comprised of state and local election officials, and election reform advocates. SEIU worked closely with FELN in Virginia during the 2008 election cycle, particularly on problems encountered by students seeking to vote in their college communities. Typically these problems occurred at the very earliest stages of the voting process as students were confronted with confusing information about the Commonwealth's residency requirements and inconsistent application of the law by local Registrars.

During the registration period, FELN was asked by the Virginia (C)(3) Table, -- a nonpartisan nonprofit grass roots coalition in Virginia in

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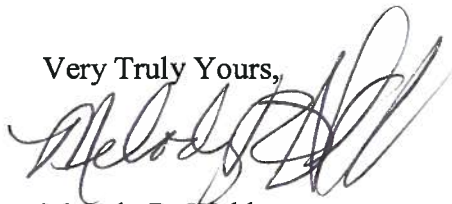
which SEIU participated -- to contact local Registrars about problems with student voter registration. FELN wrote to each of the Commonwealth's Registrars asking that state residency law be correctly applied to eligible students attempting to register in their college communities. FELN also wrote to college and university administrators clarifying the law and transmitting a Frequently Asked Questions for distribution to students. This document explained the legal requirements for voter registration in Virginia.

In 2008 FELN worked closely with Secretaries of State and local officials in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, North Carolina, and Michigan to address problems with student registration and voting. FELN continues working with officials around the country to on this issue. As a result of the organization's work, FELN has developed a unique understanding of the interplay between state residency requirements, voter registration, and student status.

SEIU supports FELN's request to be added to the Virginia Voter Residency Task Force. FELN is extremely knowledgeable about Virginia's residency laws and their unique impact on students. FELN's expertise will enable it to make a valuable contribution not only to the Voter Registration Task Force, but also to student and other voters in the Commonwealth.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melody R. Webb', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Melody R. Webb,  
Associate General Counsel

MRW